1: Linton E-8 (1926-27) 1933 FY8 Tanala FY8

to be carried on the mother's back they must sit, sleep and eat in the western half of the house. The eastern half is reserved for parents and adult visitors. They cannot sit on the same level with a parent, as on the same bench, but must sit lower. Among the Menabe gentes of plateau origin, who use elaborate wooden bedsteads, children must not sleep on the parents' bed while the latter are still alive, or in beds of any sort before they are married. When a son marries, or when he becomes rich and wishes to set up an establishment of his own, he may not use a bed until he has made a new one and presented it to his father with 0.20 franc in money. If a child, even when grown, kills a chicken, he must give the rear half to his father and if his parents live at a distance it is salted and sent to them. I knew of one instance in which a son's failure to do this was the straw that broke the camel's back. His father, already tried to the limit of endurance, formally disowned him. The first piece of cloth that a girl weaves without help must also be given to her parents, but they compliment her and may hold a small feast in her honor.

These regulations are all ancient and it is believed that their infraction is highly offensive to the ancestors. The child will be punished by illness or bad luck even if the parents choose to ignore the offense. The evil effects can only be averted by undergoing a ceremony called *takèsa*. The child comes to the parent with a gift of a piece of silver money and begs pardon. If this is granted, the parent takes the silver and puts it in a dish of water. He then counts: "*Iza* [one], *Roa* [two], *Telo* [three]," and says: "Grant that we may have good health and a good life, Andriamanitra, Andriamanasary. I pray to you because our child has committed a fault before you. He has asked pardon, bringing silver. I pardon him now, so that the evil may be averted and nothing come of it, neither sickness nor misfortune. I pardon him so that everything may prosper, so that there may be a good rice harvest, and so that the children may be attended by good fortune." He then takes some of the water in which the silver has been steeped and asperges the child with it six times, counting. At the sixth sprinkling he says: "I bless you that you may have good health and good life."

CHILDHOOD

There is no formal separation of the sexes at any stage in their development. Up to the age of five or six the boys and girls play together, but as they grow older they are drawn apart by their divergent interests. Half-grown boys and girls are rarely seen

857 together. Tanala children seem to be rather less active and are certainly less noisy than European children of the same ages. Small children and girls seem to sit about a good deal and usually play at quiet games. The boys are more active and organize themselves into gangs. The activities of these gangs are sometimes directed by old men, but this seems to be a matter of friendship rather than organized control. The gangs are not mischievous and I never heard of children stealing or destroying property deliberately. Fights are rare and are discouraged by the elders.

868 The boys hunt and fish, learn tracking, and also play at war. In the last they choose sides and carry on sham battles under the direction of old men who show them how to use their weapons and keep real fights from developing. In this way they learn how to throw the spear and get an elementary training in scouting and tactics.

866 Children receive no regular instruction and are rarely disciplined. They begin to help their parents at a very early age, although they do not seem to be set regular tasks. From the first they take part in the community life, attending all feasts and ceremonies. By the time they reach puberty they are able to do the work of adults and can assume their places as full members of the community.

PUBERTY

881 It is very difficult to obtain data on the exact age at which puberty occurs, but the Tanala seem to mature somewhat later than Europeans. The girls' first menses rarely occur before fifteen and sometimes not before seventeen years. Boys mature somewhat earlier. There is no suggestion of puberty rites or observances for either sex.

841 Menstruating women are not considered unclean and can take part in all sacrifices, etc. I could not discover that they were subject to any taboos. Married women usually sleep on the floor, apart from their husbands, at such times, but it does not seem to be obligatory. During menstruation women insert a plug of bark cloth or leaves into the vagina, removing it from time to time and washing out the blood. There is no interruption in their regular duties.

CHILDREN'S HOUSE

343 When the eldest child in a family reaches the age of fifteen or
883 sixteen, even if not physically mature, the father builds a separate house for it to the east of his dwelling. Girls use this as a work room